What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A network messaging system that is capable of receiving messages from worldwide enterprises' applications and individuals in various formats. ~~including, but not limited to, voice, text, graphics, video, and sound, and capable of automatically converting and delivering them to multiple messaging devices in singular or broadcast manner and providing the additional capability of a 2-way communication where the recipients can respond back by using various messaging devices. The system uses databases for storing the messages, status, destination device information, etc. These messages may be delivered directly into the database by authorized applications in the enterprise or by using a standard interface - giving significant flexibility for expeditious system development and deployment. Additionally, the systems modular methods (called "engines" in this invention) allow for easy replication resulting in scalability, higher efficiency and reliability.~~

2. (currently amended) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 comprising <u>unique</u> methods of providing a two-way communication by the recipients to acknowledge receipt of the messages and/or to execute commands remotely.

3. (currently amended) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 comprising ~~capability~~ <u>unique methods</u> of providing automatic escalation of delivery of messages.

4. (currently amended) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 comprising <u>unique</u> methods of scalability, efficiency and reliability.

5. (currently amended) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 comprises ~~capability~~ <u>unique methods</u> for automatic directory lookups for broadcast (group) messaging.

6. (currently amended) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 comprises <u>unique</u> methods for alternate messaging protocols.

7. (original) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 has multiple industry uses as described in some examples given in "Examples Of Uses" section of this document.

8. (original) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 can be implemented for automated messaging from various enterprise-wide applications including but not

34

limited to server applications, client/server applications, web browser based applications and direct interface from messaging devices.

9. (currently amended) The messaging system set forth in claim 1 handles any and all messaging devices, such as, but not limited to wireless telephones, wired telephones, pagers, palmpilots, fax machines, e-mails, ~~etc. It does not necessarily require pre-registration or subscription to a particular service provider – which results in flexibility and expeditious implementation of the system.~~ through its unique techniques.

10. (currently amended) The methods of claim 2 of providing a two-way communication include unique methods for the recipient to acknowledge receipt of the message and/or respond back by using any of the messaging devices.

11. (currently amended) The methods of claim 2 of providing a two-way communication include unique methods for the system to accepts and process the responses and verify authorization before accepting the responses.

12. (currently amended) The methods of claim 2 of providing a two-way communication include unique methods of delivering the responses back to the appropriate destinations.

13. (currently amended) The methods of claim 2 of providing a two-way communication include ~~a~~ unique methods ~~capability~~ to receive, to verify authorization and accept commands from authorized recipients.

14. (currently amended) The methods of claim 2 of providing a two-way communication include ~~a capability~~ unique methods of execution of commands ~~(claim 8)~~ on the specified host.

15. (currently amended) The methods set forth in claim 3 for providing automatic escalation of delivery of messages include ~~capability~~ unique methods ~~of the system~~ to accept a hierarchy of messaging devices to be used for automatic message delivery escalation.

16. (currently amended) The methods set forth in claim 3 for providing automatic escalation of delivery of messages include ~~capability of the system~~ unique methods to accept specification of escalation time intervals ~~which is used by the system to~~

~~attempt delivering the message to the next device in the hierarchy after a delay of the specified interval if the recipient does not acknowledge receipt.~~

17. (currently amended) The methods set forth in claim 3 for providing automatic escalation of delivery of messages include ~~capability of the system~~ <u>unique methods</u> to broadcast messages to all the devices in the hierarchy if the message is designated as urgent.

18. (currently amended) The methods set forth in claim 4 for providing scalability, efficiency and reliability comprise <u>unique</u> modular techniques of creating the various methods called the engines.

19. (currently amended) The methods set forth in claim 4 for providing scalability, efficiency and reliability <u>comprise unique methods to</u> allow for replication of these engines ~~on a given system~~.

20. (currently amended) ~~The methods set forth in claim 4 for providing scalability, efficiency and reliability have the capability of replicating the whole system for further scalability, efficiency and reliability.~~ <u>The messaging system set forth in claim 1 comprising unique methods of using a database as its main technique for receiving, storing and forwarding messages and commands.</u>